



APG Wounded Warrior receives service dog

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

A Wounded Warrior and employee with the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) recently gained a new best friend, courtesy of a Maryland charity that provides service dogs to injured or disabled veterans.

Kelly Keck, an equal employment opportunity specialist in ATEC's EEO Office and Lady Liberty recently met when representatives from the charity introduced him to the 3-year-old golden retriever, called "Libby" for short.

Keck and Libby are still in training but warmed to each other enough to begin spending 24-hours a day in each other's company, organizers said.

The service dogs, referred to as "Hero Dogs," enhance warriors' lives by retrieving items, turning on lights, opening doors and various other tasks. Hero Dogs also help calm the symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder, according to Keck. He said when Libby senses his agitation, she places her head on his knee and applies pressure in a, "Don't worry, I'm



Equal Opportunity specialist and Wounded Warrior Kelly Keck watches as his service dog, Libby, retrieves keys from his desk at the ATEC Headquarters. Keck received the golden lab from Hero Dogs, a group that provides service dogs to veterans at no charge.

See **HERO**, page 10

Same-sex couples can claim new benefits by October

By **KAREN PARRISH**
American Forces Press Service

Military members and retirees with same-sex partners will qualify for up to 24 new benefits under policy changes Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta announced Feb. 11.

In a memo to the service chiefs outlining the new policy, Panetta noted the department has "essentially completed" repeal of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law that barred gay and lesbian military members from serving openly.

Now, the secretary wrote to the chiefs, military leaders' work must "expand to changing our policies and practices to ensure fairness and equal treatment and to taking care of all of our service members and their families, to the extent allowable under law."

Two of the new benefits are available at the service member's election: hospital visitation and Family Readiness Group membership. For 22 other benefits, service members and their same-sex partners may file a "declaration of domestic partnership." That

See **POLICY**, page 10

ERP wins Army environmental award

By **KATE AICHROTH**
Special to the APG News

APG's Environmental Restoration Program, Directorate of Public Works' Environmental Division, won the 2012 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Environmental Restoration.

The award evaluates environmental programs on Army installations across

the United States and recognizes programs that go above and beyond to improve the quality of the environment.

"This is an especially prestigious honor for our APG team because they've taken a challenging program from its lows in the late 80's and early 90's to establish an efficient program that has restored the community's trust through transparen-

cy and hard work," said Vance Hobbs, the acting chief of the Environmental Division.

Cindy Smith, Chief of the Environmental Planning and Sustainability Branch, noted that the installation has a very robust environmental restoration program and has worked hard for decades to minimize the impacts

from widespread legacy contamination as research and development, planning, testing, and training in support of the Warfighter continues around the clock at APG.

The installation's historic training, testing, production, storage and disposal of munitions and chemical agents make

See **ENVIRONMENTAL**, page 10

Summer camp wait list opens

By **CLAUDETTE MURRAY**
APG News

If last year's signup is any indication, APG's summer camp is expected to fill up at a very fast pace.

This year's waiting list for the Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) program opens Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 a.m., at all CYSS facilities, Central Registration Bldg. 2503 or online at www.apgmwr.com.

"Parents need to sign up quickly" said Myria Figueroa, CYSS Outreach Services Director. "It is going to be a little bit competitive because every year we have more and more people who want to be a part of the program, and enroll their children."

Summer camp will take place at the APG North (Aberdeen) and APG South (Edgewood) youth

centers. Activities offered during the popular annual program include swimming, arts, sports, games, and weekly field trips.

"Last year camp participants attended the Timonium Fair and visited an Amish farm in Pennsylvania," said Figueroa. "Other years they have visited Pennsylvania's Dutch Wonderland," she said.

Although parents can obtain application forms online or at child development and youth centers, Figueroa said completed applications will only be accepted via email, fax, or in person at Central Registration. She urged parents to submit applications as early as possible to increase their chances of securing a slot.

See **SIGN UP**, page 10



APG police officers frolic in the frigid waters of the Chesapeake Bay during the 2013 Special Olympics of Maryland Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park Jan. 26.

APG police plunge for Olympics

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Members of the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 116F (FOP) took part in the 17th Annual Special Olympics of Maryland Polar Bear Plunge

at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis Jan. 26.

Lodge members, who are also APG police officers with the Directorate of Emergency Services, raised \$2,015 in support

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WEATHER

Thurs.



48° | 36°

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ICE system
<http://ice.disa.mil/>
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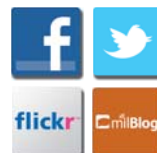


Meet your new ACS director

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ONLINE

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STREET TALK

What was your childhood boogey man?

My boogey man was clowns. From the movie “It,” [The 1990 horror mini-series from the Stephen King novel of the same name]. To this day I don’t like clowns because of that movie.



Spc. Jose Pina
20th Support Command

I was always afraid of the dark. My brother would always put me in a closet and shut the door. My husband even likes to scare me sometimes. I still shut closet doors and check under the bed.



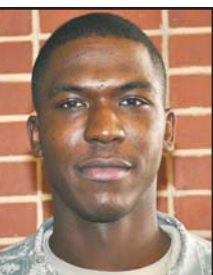
Sally Oxx
Military retiree spouse

Freddie Krueger [from the film series “A Nightmare on Elm Street”] was my boogey man. I would be fine until it was time to go to sleep; then I’d go sleep with my brother. Freddie scared me until I was 10 or 12 years old.



Chala Brooks
Veteran, civilian spouse

I was scared of Casper the Friendly Ghost. He would be in my dreams. I could never see him but I knew it was him. My mom would make me watch [the show] to get over my fear, and she made me dress up as Casper on Halloween. I outgrew it around elementary school.



Staff Sgt. Kevin Mixon
ATEC Joint Test

OPINION

Our Army leads the way in embracing power of diversity

Throughout the year, our Army takes time to recognize the unique contributions of those from every part of our diverse society. During February, we commemorate Black History Month, to especially honor the contributions African-Americans have made to our nation and our Armed Forces.

From the earliest days of our country’s history, African-Americans have been willing to fight around the globe on behalf of freedom—a freedom they were often unable to exercise here at home.

From the Battle of Lexington to the Battle of Fallujah, African-Americans have served with courage and distinction in each of our nation’s conflicts.

In fact, one of the first casualties of our nation’s struggle for independence was a man of African descent named Crispus Attucks, who lost his life in the Boston Massacre, an event that galvanized public opinion across the colonies against British rule.

Thousands of black Soldiers served in the Revolutionary War, many in racially integrated units. In addition, America’s first all-black military formation, the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, was also established during the revolution. They fought heroically against the British Army during the Battle for Rhode Island in 1778.

During the War of 1812, two battalions of ‘Free Men of Color’ served at the Battle of New Orleans. Fifty black Soldiers were killed in that fight, but the Free Men of Color defeated the elite 85th and 95th British Regiments, helping to win a historic victory for our nation.

Later, at the outset of the Civil War, thousands of slaves sought out Union camps to volunteer as Soldiers. Ultimately, more than 186,000 black Soldiers served in the Union Army and 38,000 were killed in action.

The Confederate Army also enlisted a smaller number of black Soldiers, but these units were still being organized at the time the conflict ended and they did not see action.

Notably, the year 2013 marks the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abra-



Dr. King’s celebrated words on that day have become an integral part not only of our Black History Month commemorations, but more importantly, of our American story, as they represent the aspiration for equality and justice that all people share.

ham Lincoln in 1863. President Lincoln signed the proclamation in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War battle at Antietam.

Less than 85 miles from today’s Aberdeen Proving Ground, our nation suffered more casualties at Antietam than on any single day in our history. At a truly critical time in the struggle to preserve the Union, the Emancipation Proclamation gave hope to millions still held in bondage and ultimately led to the passing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States forever.

African-American service members continued to distinguish themselves throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. From the Buffalo Soldiers who fought on the plains of the Old West, to the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II who fought in the skies over Europe, African-Americans raised their right hand and did their duty alongside men and women representing every race, ethnic group and religious faith in our great nation.

The current fight is no exception as today’s U.S. Armed Forces stands as a tremendous example of the strength and warfighting capability that arises, in part, from the diversity of our formations.

African-Americans have also played an important role throughout the history of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Two companies of black Soldiers were part of the initial construction force that built some of the earliest facilities at Edgewood Arsenal back in 1917.

During WWII, the first black Chemical Warfare Service unit was trained here, and approximately 50 percent of the civilian employees at Edgewood were African-American.

After the war, as the armed forces achieved full integration in the 1950s and 1960s, Aberdeen Proving Ground served as an example and a catalyst for change in the surrounding community as our APG workforce became more diverse over the years.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King’s ‘I Have a Dream’ speech. Dr. King’s celebrated words on that day have become an integral part not only of our Black History Month commemorations, but more importantly, of our American story, as they represent the aspiration for equality and justice that all people share.

Today, our Army remains a national leader in embracing the power of diversity. To give just one example, there have been six African-American Army officers who have risen to the rank of four-star general, two of whom are on active-duty today.

Across our force, we bring together those from every background and build an esprit de corps in our units that achieves success under the most challenging circumstances imaginable. As a result, during this month, I would encourage everyone to take some time to recall the unique contributions African-Americans have made to our Army and to our nation.

For more information about African-Americans and our Army, please visit <http://www.army.mil/africanamericans/index.html>

Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell
Commander, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command & Aberdeen Proving Ground

Hiring freeze affects APG tax program, hours

Office of the SJA

As a result of the Jan. 22, 2013, Army-wide hiring freeze implemented by the assistant secretary, Department of the Army, tax center information that was published in the Jan. 24 APG News has been modified.

Tax services will not be available until Tuesday, Feb. 19. In addition, tax services will be limited to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. An early cutoff will be in effect daily.

Until additional staff is retained, tax preparation will consist only of simple tax returns prepared on a walk-in basis. There will be no scheduled appointments.

Most individuals who have simple

returns with only the following sources of income will be eligible for service: wages, pension, interest and dividends, unemployment compensation, student loan interest, and social security payments.

In limited circumstances, child and dependent care expenses, and some itemized deductions (Schedule A) may also be eligible. Client Services Division (CSD) staff will determine if the return is eligible for walk-in preparation.

Assistance with local and state tax returns from other state jurisdictions will also be limited. For example, if income was earned in more than one state, assistance will not be provided for the multi-state returns, or state returns when residing in one state while working in another.

Tax services will be available in the

CSD office, room 317, third floor, Bldg. 4305. Qualifying active duty service members, retirees, and Family members who are eligible to receive simple tax preparation must first complete a series of required documents.

These documents can be picked up at the CSD office or accessed online at www.apg.army.mil, Services, APG Income Tax. These documents are extremely helpful in gathering the information necessary to file an accurate return and must be completed prior to receiving service.

An income tax provider list is also available as a courtesy to those individuals who are ineligible for services.

For more information, call 410-278-1583.

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: IMAP-PA, Building 305, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1153. Printed circulation is 8,900. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal oppor-

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Esteemed speaker delivers message of hope, perseverance

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

One of the most influential African American leaders in the nation was the guest speaker during Team APG’s Black History Month program at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Feb. 6.

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland Baltimore County and chair of President Obama’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans, addressed a rapt APG audience.

Hrabowski’s accolades include being named “One of America’s 10 Best College Presidents” in 2009 and one of the “100 Most Influential People in the World” in 2012 by TIME magazine. He is one of the 2012 inaugural inductees into the U.S. News and World Report STEM Solutions Leadership Hall of Fame.

The great-great-grandson of Eaton Hrabowski, a Polish-American slave owner in rural Alabama, Hrabowski said his lesson in achieving goals stems from around age 12, when he and his parents were jailed for five days after participating in a civil rights protest led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

He said King visited the jailed protestors during their incarceration with words of encouragement that propelled him to a career in education and continue to inspire him.

The standing-room only audience included cadets from the Maryland National Guard’s Freestate ChalleNGe Academy and Hrabowski directed many of his remarks toward the young attendees.

“I will never forget when Dr. King said that what you do this day will impact children who haven’t yet been born,” he told the audience. “I firmly believe that if a young person of any race gets a good education that person has a chance to accomplish all kinds of things.”



Hrabowski



(From left) Marion Green and Renesha Robinson of CECOM, members of the group “Togetherness,” deliver an uplifting musical message during the Team APG Black History Month observance at the APG North (Aberdeen) recreation center Feb. 6.

He said his belief is strengthened by the nation’s enthusiasm for and promotion of STEM programs.

“While working on the president’s education commission, I realized too few are trained in the sciences, engineering, math and technologies,” he said. “I want young people of all races to be excited about what STEM can do.”

“We need people who can think well, who know the importance of discipline and hard work,” he said.

He called America the “greatest experiment humankind has ever seen” due to its diversity and its slow, yet gradual, movement toward equality as envisioned by King.

“The idea is to dream big,” he said in closing. “To dream about the possibilities. We can do this. We can be better than we are today.”

APG Garrison Commander Col. Greg-

ory McClinton introduced Hrabowski and Lt. Col. Chad Lewis, 20th Support Command (CBRNE), offered closing remarks. APG Senior Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Ferrell thanked Hrabowski and the program’s participants.

Other program highlights included a reading of the Black History Month Presidential Proclamation by Nkenge Evans of Edgewood High School, and gospel selections by “Togetherness,” APG civilians who volunteer their time to provide songs of encouragement to local audiences. A food tasting, catered by First Sergeant’s Barbecue, followed the ceremony. Capt. Jennifer Jackiw of U.S. Army Public Health Command was the emcee and Donna Doganiero, also of USAPHC, delivered the welcome. USAPHC Commander Major Gen. Jimmie Keenan hosted the event. Black history displays and artwork decorated the center.

Several attendees appreciated the program.

“I enjoyed everything about it,” said Lillian Wright of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. “I liked how he focused on young people. He helped us envision a part of history, and he is a part of history because he knew Dr. King and that his fight was for all people, not just African Americans.”

Lt. Col. Pamela Howard-Whitehurst of JPEO-CBD said she also appreciated Hrabowski’s focus on youth. “I really enjoyed the speaker,” she said. My son needs to hear that speech.”

Retired Harford County Public Schools teacher and writing instructor with the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy, Sherman Lantz, agreed.

“As a teacher of youth I enjoy hearing the educational aspect,” he said. “I loved it.”

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

USA JOBS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What do you want to know about USA Jobs? The APG News will publish a series of articles to debunk myths, provide tips on the application process and inform applicants of their rights and responsibilities. If you have questions you'd like answered, email adriane.foss@us.army.mil.

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

This year marks the 27th Harvest for the Hungry, a Harford Community Action campaign dedicated to feeding hungry Marylanders year round. The campaign has raised more than 31 million pounds of food in the past 26 years. The APG began Feb. 7 and will run through March 8.

Non-perishable items can be donated at the following collection points are:

APG North (Aberdeen): Commissary; CDC Bldg. 2485; Athletic Center and Ruggles Golf

APG South (Edgewood): CDC Bldg. E-1901; Hoyle Gym and Exton Golf Course

Suggested food and most needed items include canned meats, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, canned stews, canned fish, nuts and seeds, canned beans; breakfast cereal, oatmeal, rice and rice cakes, pasta; canned fruits and juices, canned vegetables, canned soups, sauces and salad dressings; dairy, evaporated milk, powdered milk, infant formula, puddings and custards.

For organizations that prefer to collect internally, pickups and containers can be coordinated by contacting 1st Lt. Raisa Velez at 410-306-2813, or e-mail raisa.velez@us.army.mil.

THURSDAY FEB. 14 LOVE YOUR HEART

Learn how to protect your heart on Valentine's Day. Join us at APG South (Edgewood), Bldg. E2800 from noon-1 p.m. Guest speaker Gale Sauer, RN, Army Test and Evaluation Center, will teach attendees how to maintain a healthy heart. For information, call 443-861-9260.

MEDIATION SKILLS

Join Kelsang Chogden, principal teacher at Kadampa Meditation Center-Maryland, as she speaks about meditation at Myer Auditorium from 12-1pm. For more information, contact Tiffany Grimes at 443-861-7910 or tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY FEB. 15 & 16 AN INTRODUCTION TO WINTER BIRD PHYSIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

This course will provide a brief introduction to the world of winter birds and how they cope with changes in habitat and food choices. It will begin Friday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a discussion of avian physiology, systematics, and ecology as it relates to many common winter birds. On Saturday the course will continue from 9 to 11 a.m. and will involve a closer look at feeder birds while observing them from the feeders and mark and release them following an assessment of health. Participants will get a closer look at birds and obtain a greater appreciation of their unique adaptations including a background on how species develop and diversify. This program is for ages 12 to adult and the cost is \$20. Online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SATURDAY FEB. 16 INVASINATORS

Become part of the volunteer team of invasive plant removers and native plant restorers. This winter focus on mapping, ground truthing, and monitoring invasive plants to formulate an invasives action plan. Dress for the weather and be prepared to be working at both Leight Park and the Boseley Conservancy. This program will be held 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 14 to adult. The program is free but online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY FEB. 17 MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the Center's live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This program will be held at 2 p.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 18 AUTO CRAFT OPEN FOR HOLIDAY

The MWR Auto Craft Center will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on President's Day, Monday, Feb. 18. Customers are encouraged to come use the "do-it-yourself" mechanics facility that includes skilled staff members, reference materials and state-of-the-art equipment. Regular operating hours are Thursday and Friday, 1 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We're doing this to see how much business we can generate on a Monday and possibly open the center five days a week," said center business manager Ed Dela Cruz. "This way, if you don't finish the job on Sunday, you won't have to wait until Thursday to finish it."

For more information, contact Dela Cruz at 410-278-5178 or edwin.n.delacruz2.civ@mail.mil. Visit www.apgmwr.com for information.

TUESDAY FEB. 19 FINANCIAL SEMINAR

Attend the Making the Most of What You Make financial seminar. Michelle Rackey, ChFEBC, executive director of GEBA, will be the speaker at Myer Auditorium from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For information, call 443-861-7910 or email tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil

SATURDAY FEB. 23 COLD COMPASS CAPERS

Learn how to use a compass while negotiating a scavenger hunt inside and outside of the Center. Warm treats will be the reward. This program will be held at 2 to 3:30 p.m. for all ages, under 12 with adult. The cost is \$5 per person or \$18 per Family and online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

CRITTER DINNER TIME

Come watch the turtles, fish and snakes eat while learning more about these fascinating creatures. This program will be held at 10:30 a.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 25 VETERAN JOB FAIR

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation will host a Hiring Our Heroes job fair at the Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Road in Towson, Md., from noon to 4 p.m.

Register at <https://hoh.greatjob.net/sc/viewEvent.action?id=847512>. For online help with resume writing, interview tips, translating military skills and experience into related civilian careers, visit the <http://www.military.com/hiringourheroes>.

For information, e-mail hirin-gourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5807 or 410-616-0559.

SATURDAY MARCH 2 WOMEN'S SKEET/TRAP

Introductory classes for women's skeet and trap will be offered at the APG skeet and Trap Range at APG-South (Edgewood) from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Lessons include: Introduction to the shotgun, gun safety Demo and target shooting. Guns and ammo will be provided. Registration deadline is Feb 25. For information, call 410-278-4124/5789 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-Outdoorrecreation@conus.army.mil.

MONDAY MARCH 4 JOB STORE OPEN FOR VETS MARCH 4 AT PX

Visit the Hero2Hired Mobile Job Store at the APG PX parking lot Monday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hero2Hired (H2H) is a Yellow Ribbon-funded program that connects job seeking veterans and Family members with meaningful employment. H2H contains everything you need to find a job, including job listings, career exploration tools, education and training resources, live and virtual hiring fairs, a mobile app, an innovative Facebook application, and a variety of networking opportunities.

The H2H Mobile Job Store is an extension of the H2H program. It has four computer stations that connect to the H2H.jobs website as well as a multimedia system and a lounge area where the MJS staff will be available to answer questions and assist with signing up on the H2H.jobs site.

Check out facebook.com/H2H.Jobs or twitter.com/H2H.Jobs.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MARCH 6-7 CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

Do you craft? Or do you know someone who does? Now is your chance to display your talent at the annual APG Spring-Tastic Bazaar. For more information or to reserve a table, contact the Leisure and Travel Office at the APG North recreation center.

TUESDAY MARCH 12 SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

Training outlines sponsors' basic responsibilities to help Soldiers, civilian employees and their Family members successfully relocate in and out of their organization. The training will be held at Bldg. 2503, 2nd Floor, CYSS Classroom, from 11 a.m.-noon. For information, call 410-278-7572.

THURSDAY MARCH 28 BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. The community is invited to a brain injury awareness event, presented by some of the most esteemed experts in the field of adult, child, and sports-related brain injuries. The event is set at the post theater from 1-4 p.m., and everyone is welcome. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

MONDAYS APG THEATER GROUP SEEKING MEMBERS

Need more drama in your life? More laughs? Want to improve your public speaking skills, or learn how to look 10 years younger instantly. Then the APG Theater workshop are for you. The classes are geared to assist anyone in bringing out their best while performing , interacting one-on-one, or speaking before a small group. Find out what your body language is saying, but what your words are revealing.

Classes run for approximately four weeks, and are held every other Monday at 5 p.m. in the APG North recreation center ballroom. A certificate of participation is presented at the end of the class.

The workshop is free, and dates and times are subject to change.

If interested, stop by the APG North or South recreation centers during regular business hours to fill out a registration form, email patricia.a.devine6.naf@mail.mil, or call 410-278-9451.

JULY 8-12 SUMMER SOCCER CAMP

Challenger Sports is partnering with British Soccer Camps, the largest and most popular soccer camp program in the United States and Canada. Challenger coaches study the game at all levels and have identified the key techniques and skills players need to master to reach their true potential. Each day of the camp includes individual foot skills, technical drills, tactical practices, small-sided games, coached scrimmages, and a daily World Cup tournament.

The camp will be held this year July 8 -12 at the APG soccer fields. For more information or to sign up, contact Gary Hodgson at ghodgson@challengersports.com or 443-552-0509.

SATURDAYS CRITTER FEEDINGS

Eden Mill Nature Center will be offering feedings on Saturdays through March at 3 p.m. Open to all ages. Join us in the nature center as we feed our critters. Take a turn feeding one of the turtles or a snake. Space is limited to 10 participants so pre-register early by calling 410-836-3050 or emailing edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com. Visit www.edenmill.org for information.

WEEKDAYS THRU - MARCH 31 WINTER HOURS SET FOR EQUIPMENT RESOURCE CENTER

Open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Bldg. 2184, 410-278-4124.

THURSDAYS SOCIAL HOUR

Socialize, network or just unwind with fellow Soldiers, coworkers, friends and Family while enjoying good food, music and camaraderie during Thursday Socials, 4 to 7 p.m., in the Top of the Bay Gunpowder Lounge.

Thursday Socials include complimentary light refreshments and a cash bar with additional fare for sale.

For more information, contact Teri Hall at 410-278-3062.

OPEN MIC AND KARAOKE

Open Mic & Karaoke Night is slated monthly on Thursdays at Ruggles Golf Course from 6 - 9 p.m. as follows: Feb. 21, and March 21.

Kick off the New Year doing what you love.

Sing a cover song or bring your guitar and play an original. Admission is free. Enjoy complimentary bar food and a cash bar with beer and wine. For information, visit www.APGMWR.com or call 410-278-4011.

SATURDAYS FEB. 23, MARCH 9 SKI TRIPS

Sign up at the Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 2184 for the ski trip to Roundtop Mountain Resort. Full payments are due at sign-up. Cash or check only. Waiver required. Call 410-278-4124 for information.

ONGOING APPLY NOW FOR SSCF

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center is currently accepting applications for the 2013-14 Service College Fellowship program through April 1.

The SSCF Program is a 10-month educational opportunity conducted under the auspices of the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) at Huntsville, Ala.; Warren, Mich. and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The SSCF program prepares government civilians at the GS-14/15 levels or equivalent for senior leadership roles by provides training in leadership and acquisition. Program components include completion of DAU's Program Management Course (PMT 401), courses in leadership, applications of acquisition to national defense issues, research in acquisition topics, mentoring, and a distinguished speaker program.

For more information, visit <http://asc.army.mil/web/career-development/programs/defense-acquisition-university-senior-service-college/>, or contact Jim Oman at james.oman@dau.mil or 410-272-9470.

ASIAN PACIFIC COMMITTEE

Team APG will form the Asian Pacific Islander Committee for its annual observance in May. All Soldiers, civilians, contractors and Family members interested in serving on the committee can attend meetings to help develop a program. Be prepared to discuss your ideas. Personnel from APG South (Edgewood) are especially encouraged to attend and provide input.

Meetings will be held in the CECOM Conference Room, Bldg. 6001, Suite C1-110, Room C1106 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the following dates: Feb. 19; March 12 and 19; April 9, 23 and 30; and May 7 and 14.

For more information, contact Tracy Marshall, CECOM/Installation EO, at 443-861-4366 or e-mail tracy.y.marshall.mil@mail.mil.



**MORE
ONLINE**
More events can be seen at www.apgnews.apg.army.mil/calendar.

Q&A: Meet your new ACS director: Janice Downey

Janice Downey assumed the role of APG's Army Community Services Director on Nov. 15, 2012. Downey shared her thoughts in a recent interview with *APG News*.

What are your duties as ACS Director?

I lead and support the staff and our customers. I am a hands-on leader, and I want to help as much as possible. ACS has a small staff of five employees, including myself, so my main priority is to maintain the team spirit and help staff members be successful.

My other priority is to gain more financial support for our programs. I am impressed with APG's senior leadership; they are supportive of ACS, so we are moving in the right direction.

Although some ACS programs are exclusively for Soldiers and their Families, a number of our programs serve DoD civilians as well. We offer a number of classes and events that are open to the entire APG community.

What are your priorities as ACS director?

We like to consider ourselves the garrison commander's social services POC, keeping the Army strong. We consider ACS as part of the commander's solution to retention and recruitment efforts. If our Families are content, then we know our Soldiers are content. I previously worked in three locations [Fort Reilly, Kan.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; and Stuttgart, Germany] and I have realized that even though the days are different, the issues that Families face are universal.

Why did you choose this line of work?

Working with ACS is a rewarding career; it has offered me an opportunity to get to know people from all walks of life. I have worked with ACS for 32 years, 28 of those years as an ACS director. My father and husband served in the military, so I understand the needs of military Families from the perspective



Photo by Rachel Ponder

of a military child and a military spouse. I feel like this is my bailiwick, running programs that positively affect our Soldiers and their Families. I find this line of work exciting. Not one day is the same here. Families have many needs that we are trying to meet.

How is ACS coping with reduced funding and less staff?

It has been my experience that ACS is always short staffed. Right now we are 50 percent less staffed. Some of our critical positions are hanging on by a limb. Because of the hiring freeze, we can-

not replace some positions, even when an employee retires or resigns. We deal with this reality by cross-training the staff. Everyone has multiple roles.

We have two positions that have been deemed critical and are exempt from the hiring freeze, which will be filled soon—a sexual assault response coordinator and a victim advocate. Other positions I would like to see filled are the Financial Readiness Program manager and the Relocation Readiness Program manager, but because of the hiring freeze I do not have the authority to hire these individuals.

To cope with these challenges, I am promoting the ACS volunteer program. There are so many talented people in our community that can serve Soldiers and Family members by volunteering with ACS.

I always appreciate feedback from the community and have an open door policy. I want community members speak with me if they have any suggestions on ways to make ACS programs better.

ACS is located in Bldg. 2503, on the first floor. To contact Downey, call 410-278-2500 or e-mail janice.l.downey.civ@mail.mil.

CERDEC engineer named ‘Most Promising’

By **AMANDA ROMINIECKI**
CERDEC Public Affairs

An Army engineer at Aberdeen Proving Ground was honored as the Black Engineer of the Year, or BEYA, Most Promising Engineer - Government category at the BEYA STEM Conference in Washington, D.C., Feb. 9.

Moses K. Mingle, a supervisory electronics engineer for the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command’s communications-electronics center, or CERDEC, was named most promising engineer for his contributions in the field electronic warfare countermeasures.

Mingle serves as branch chief for the Electronic Warfare Systems, Ground Branch in CERDEC’s Intelligence & Information Warfare Directorate, or I2WD. His work focuses on the design, development, testing, evaluation, fielding and support of radio frequency countermeasure sensors and systems used throughout the world to defeat improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

“His technical capabilities, insights into the problem and innovative solutions that he has proposed and imple-



This award speaks highly of not only Mr. Mingle’s dedication to his work and the greater Army mission as a civilian, but his expertise and leadership that are invaluable to CERDEC. His technical capabilities, insights into the problem and innovative solutions that have been extraordinary and very successful in dealing with the problem [of IEDs], thus saving numerous lives.

mented along with his team have been extraordinary and very successful in dealing with the problem [of IEDs], thus saving numerous lives,” said Ralph Troisio, I2WD Electronic Warfare Air/Ground Survivability division chief who nominated Mingle for the award.

The BEYA award recognizes “technology leaders for their career achievements and their efforts in strengthening the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) pipeline” by inspiring young students of color to pursue careers in STEM areas, as stated by the

BEYA website.

“This award speaks highly of not only Mr. Mingle’s dedication to his work and the greater Army mission as a civilian, but his expertise and leadership that are invaluable to CERDEC,” said Henry Muller, I2WD director. “His work has helped save countless lives. He serves as a role model to his peers and young students striving for a quality education and a meaningful career.”

Born in Ghana, Mingle moved to the United States at the age of 10 to follow his parents who had moved to New York in search of a better life for themselves and their children. Mingle’s uncle was an engineer and from him he found inspiration.

At the age of eleven, he took apart a broken VCR in an attempt to fix it. His uncle told him that that is what engineers do – fix problems, create solutions, build things to make life better – and in that moment Mingle said he knew he wanted to be an engineer.

To set an example for his younger siblings, Mingle focused on his education and later went on to receive a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Fairleigh Dickinson University, a master’s degree in electrical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

“From my own experience, I know how very important it is to promote STEM to the next generation,” said Mingle. “My uncle was an example for me and now young students can see what

I’ve been able to achieve. We must keep STEM education alive and prospering.”

Mingle cites his grandparents, who raised him in Ghana and his parents when he moved to the United States, as those who taught him the value of discipline and respect, shaping him and his 11-year career as federal employee.

“I’ve never been a Soldier, but being able to get on the phone with Soldiers, hear their needs and work to meet them – it’s a great feeling,” said Mingle. “You know you’re doing something meaningful.”

In addition to responsibilities at CERDEC, Mingle serves as the Chief Engineer for Product Manager Counter-Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare, or PdM CREW through Program Executive Office Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, or PEO IEW&S.

“Mr. Mingle exemplifies the quality of an outstanding, dedicated leader who possesses personal integrity and a thoughtful communicative style,” said Lt. Col. Bruce A. Ryba, of PdM CREW, who works closely with Mingle. “I am an ardent admirer of his giving spirit, creative talents and gifts, as well as the poise he radiates no matter how demanding or pressing the situation.”

“While an award like this recognizes me, it just as much recognizes those around me: my team, those above me, and everyone who works with me,” said Mingle. “I’m grateful to all those who support me. This is an award for my team, for I2WD, for CERDEC, for RDECOM and for the U.S. Army.”



Want to make a difference in how services are rendered at APG? Tell us how we are doing. **Visit <http://ice.disa.mil>.** Click on “ARMY” then “Aberdeen Proving Ground.”



APG North Chapel (Aberdeen)
CATHOLIC

- Fri 15 Feb, 6 p.m., Stations/Soup & Bread
- Sun 17 Feb, 8:45 a.m., 1st Sun of Lent
- Sun 24 Feb, 8:45 a.m., 2nd Sun of Lent
- Fri 1 Mar, 6 p.m., Stations/Soup & Bread
- Sun 3 Mar, 8:45 a.m., 3rd Sun of Lent
- Sun 10 Mar, 8:45 a.m., 4th Sun of Lent
- Mon 11 Mar, 5:30 p.m., Lenten Penance Service
- Fri 15 Mar, 6 p.m., Stations/Soup & Bread
- Sun 17 Mar, 8:45 a.m., 5th Sun of Lent
- Mon 25 Mar, 11:45 a.m., Annunciation
- Sun 24 Mar, 8:30 a.m., Palm Sunday
- Wed 27 Mar, 5:30 p.m., Healing Mass/Anointing
- Fri 29 Mar, 3 p.m., Veneration of Cross
- Sat 30 Mar, 8 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass
- Sun 31 Mar, 8:45 a.m., Easter Sunday

PROTESTANT

- Sun 17 Feb, 10:15 a.m., 1st Sun of Lent
- Sun 24 Feb, 10:15 a.m., 2nd Sun of Lent
- Sun 3 Mar, 10:15 a.m., 3rd Sun of Lent
- Sun 10 Mar, 10:15 a.m., 4th Sun of Lent
- Sun 17 Mar, 10:15 a.m., 5th Sun of Lent
- Sun 24 Mar, 10:15 a.m., Palm Sunday
- Sun 31 Mar, 10:15 a.m., Easter Sunday

GOSPEL

- Sun 17 Feb, noon, 1st Sun of Lent
- Sun 24 Mar, noon, 2nd Sun of Lent
- Sun 3 Mar, noon, 3rd Sun of Lent
- Sun 10 Mar, noon, 4th Sun of Lent
- Sun 17 Mar, noon, 5th Sun of Lent
- Sun 24 Mar, 10:15 a.m., Palm Sunday
- Sun 31 Mar, noon, Easter Sunday

APG South Chapel (Edgewood)
CATHOLIC

- Sun 17 Feb, 10:45 a.m., 1st Sun of Lent
- Fri 22 Feb, 6 p.m., Stations/Soup & Bread
- Sun 24 Feb, 10:45 a.m., 2nd Sun of Lent
- Sun 3 Mar, 10:45 a.m., 3rd Sun of Lent
- Fri 8 Mar, 6 p.m., Stations/Soup & Bread
- Sun 10 Mar, 10:45 a.m., 4th Sun of Lent
- Sun 17 Mar, 10:45 a.m., 5th Sun of Lent
- Fri 22 Mar, 6 p.m., Stations/Soup & Bread
- Sun 24 Mar, 10:45 a.m., Palm Sunday
- Thur 28 Mar, 7 p.m., Holy Thursday
- Fri 29 Mar, 3 p.m., Good Friday
- Sun 31 Mar, 10:45 a.m., Easter Sunday

PROTESTANT

- Sun 17 Feb, 9:15 a.m., 1st Sun of Lent
- Sun 24 Feb, 9:15 a.m., 2nd Sun of Lent
- Sun 3 Mar, 9:15 a.m., 3rd Sun of Lent
- Sun 10 Mar, 9:15 a.m., 4th Sun of Lent
- Sun 17 Mar, 9:15 a.m., 5th Sun of Lent
- Sun 24 Mar, 9:15 a.m., Palm Sunday
- Sun 31 Mar, 9:15 a.m., Easter Sunday

LENTEN LUNCH & BIBLE STUDY
Every Wed 20 Feb – 27 Mar, noon, AA
Chapel Fellowship Hall

LENTEN RENEWAL PROGRAM
10-13 Mar
Conducted by: Rev. John Campoli

“THE DRAMA OF EASTER”
31 Mar 2013, 0630
Location: Behind Top of the Bay
Join us afterwards for a continental
breakfast at Top of the Bay

JEWISH HOLY DAYS
PURIM: 24 Feb
PASSOVER: 25 Mar to 2 Apr (Community
Seder 26 Mar)
POC: Col. Jonas Vogelhut, 443-619-2304

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CHILDREN’S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Beware of the risk of gum disease

By **LISA YOUNG**
U.S. Army Public Health Command

Clean and healthy teeth and gums are more important than for just an attractive smile. Gum diseases are serious infections that can lead to tooth loss. Unfortunately the beginning stages of gum disease are not painful and often go unnoticed. Many people develop gum disease to a varying degree in early adulthood due to hormonal changes that persist depending on the health of the teeth and gums. Gum or periodontal disease begins

when the bacteria in plaque, the sticky colorless film that is constantly being formed on the teeth, causes the gums to be infected and swollen. If the plaque is not removed, it turns into a hard deposit called tartar that is trapped at the base of the tooth and irritates the gums. The mildest form of periodontal disease is gingivitis. It often occurs when a person does not brush and floss their teeth adequately, or have regular cleanings with the dental hygienist. The symptoms of gingivitis are not usually painful. They include:

- Bleeding gums, particularly when teeth are brushed
- Bright red gums
- Gums that are tender when touched but otherwise painless
- Swollen gums
- Shiny appearance to gums

This form of gum disease is reversible with professional treatment and good oral care. If left untreated, gingivitis can progress to periodontitis which occurs when the plaque and bacterial infection grows below the gum line. Over time, the toxins produced by the bacteria stimulate an inflammatory response in the body so that the tissues and bone that support the teeth are broken down and destroyed. As the disease progresses the gums separate from the teeth and the spaces between the teeth and gums deepen and eventually more gum tissue and bone are destroyed. The risk of periodontal disease is increased by:

- General illness
- Poor dental hygiene
- Pregnancy, due to hormonal changes

that increase gum sensitivity

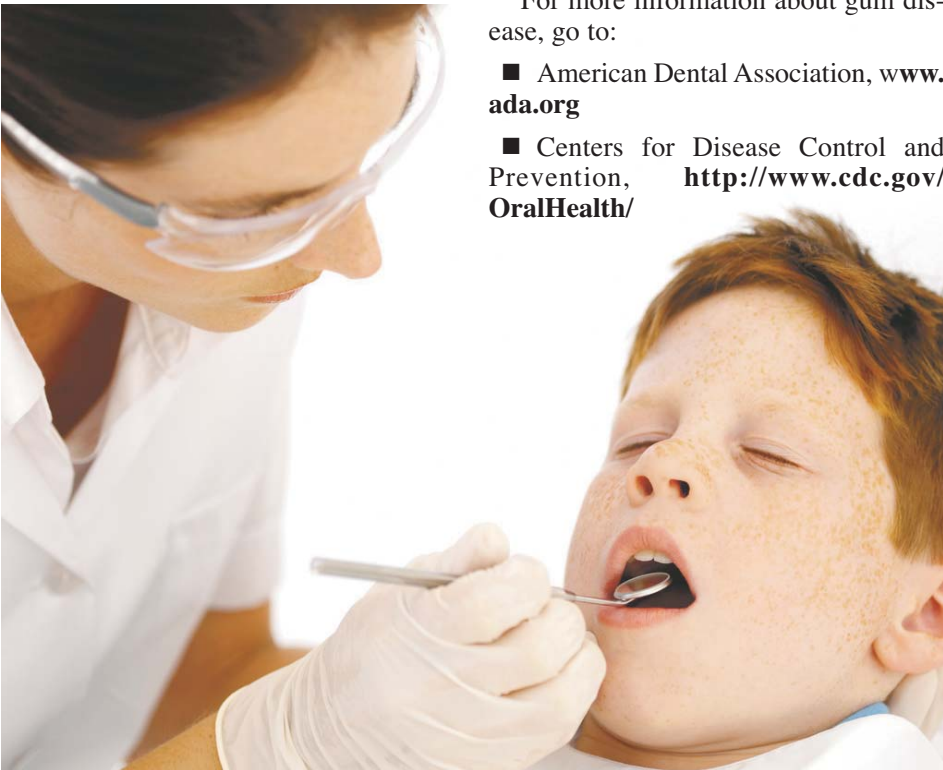
- Uncontrolled diabetes
- Misaligned teeth, rough edges of fillings, and ill-fitting braces, dentures, bridges or crowns
- Certain medications, i.e. phenytoin, birth control pills, heavy metals

The goal of treatment for periodontal disease is to reduce inflammation. The teeth are cleaned professionally by a dentist or dental hygienist with various devices to loosen and remove the plaque and hard tartar from the teeth. Teeth cleaning at least twice a year and possibly more often is required to keep the build-up of plaque off the teeth. This is followed by careful oral hygiene on a daily basis.

Antibacterial mouth rinses may be recommended in addition to frequent tooth brushing and flossing. Special tools such as certain toothpicks or floss, antiplaque toothbrushes and tooth paste, water irrigation, or other devices may also be suggested by the dentist for people who are particularly prone to plaque deposits.

To prevent the reoccurrence of periodontal disease, strict oral hygiene must be maintained for a person’s whole life. For more information about gum disease, go to:

- American Dental Association, www.ada.org
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/>



Courtesy photo

Environmental team to compete at DoD

Continued from Page 1

the job of the Environmental Restoration Program especially vital.

The program goal is to identify, investigate and execute cost-effective environmental cleanups. Smith said the program has made a significant positive impact on the health and safety of community members, the environment, and quality of life at APG and surrounding communities.

“Members of the APG restoration team are skilled in many areas such as the fields of chemistry, geology, toxicology, biology, environmental science and engineering,” said Smith, “and they work tirelessly to identify and define environmental contamination and develop and implement innovative and cost effective cleanups.”

The restoration team forges partnerships with regulators and the pub-

Members of the APG restoration team are skilled in many areas such as the fields of chemistry, geology, toxicology, biology, environmental science and engineering, and they work tirelessly to identify and define environmental contamination and develop and implement innovative and cost effective cleanups.

Cindy Smith

Chief of the Environmental Planning and Sustainability Branch

lic, develops and employs remediation strategies with the help of innovative and sustainable technologies, all while focusing on cost effectiveness, explained Smith

“Considering the size, historic mission of APG and complexity, it has not

been a simple task to restore the trust of regulators and the public,” said Hobbs, “but our team continues to build relationships that allow flexibility and innovation in our cleanup efforts. And we manage to cut costs while restoring the environment and sustaining the military

missions here at APG.”

Aberdeen Proving Ground’s Installation Restoration Program will now compete against other installations’ restoration programs on the Department of Defense level for the Secretary of Defense Environmental Award.

Policy change reflects repeal of DADT

Continued from Page 1

declaration entitles same-sex partners to military identification cards, commissary and exchange shopping privileges, child care and youth programs, sexual assault counseling and other benefits.

Housing, medical and dental care, and overseas command sponsorship for same-sex partners are not included in this round of policy changes. As Panetta noted in a statement, those benefits are restricted under the Defense of Marriage Act, commonly known as DOMA, which defines “spouse” as someone married to a person of the opposite sex. The Supreme Court is reviewing the law, and is expected to rule on it later this year.

The secretary wrote, “In the event that the Defense of Marriage Act is no longer applicable to the Department of Defense, it will be the policy of the department to construe the words ‘spouse’ and ‘marriage’ without regard to sexual orientation, and married couples, irrespective of sexual orientation, and their dependents, will be granted full military benefits.”

A senior Pentagon official emphasized in a briefing to Pentagon reporters today that benefit changes will happen as soon as possible. Panetta’s guidance to the services directed they make “every effort” to have systems in place to accept same-sex benefit requests by Aug. 31.

In no case, he wrote, may the services delay beyond Oct. 1 in rolling out the benefits.

Rolling out a new benefit takes time, the official said, as regulations and instructions, systems and software all have to be updated, and workers will need to be trained in new processes.

“Normally, we’re looking at a year” to make such changes, the official noted. “This is a very ambitious schedule; we’re really pressing hard to do this.”

Another official said the Defense Department is working to see if the housing benefit can be added to the list and is developing a mechanism to allow buri-

al of same - sex partners at Arlington National Cemetery, Va. The domestic partnership declaration isn’t feasible in cases where one or both partners have died, the second official added.

Retirees and their same-sex partners will be able to file the declaration once the new systems are in place. The first official estimated that 5,600 same-sex couples include an active-duty service member, 3,400 include a Reserve or National Guard member, and 8,000 include a retired military member. The cost of implementing the new benefits, the official added, would be negligible.

APG police take frigid dip for local charity

Continued from Page 1

of the event which supports sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

“It is our goal to support the Special Olympics of Maryland annually in this event,” said DES Police Officer Jonathan Wight. Wight said nine lodge members, including one photographer who did not plunge, participated and the group’s goal was to raise \$3,000 and recruit 25 participants. Although they

fell short of both goals, they are committed to do better next year, he said.

This was the first plunge for FOP Lodge 116F as a group but Wight’s second. He said he appreciates the camaraderie of the event as well as its overall purpose.

“This is a very well organized event that brings thousands of participants together [while raising] millions of dollars for children and adults,” he said.

FOP Lodge 116F has an ongoing commitment to community service, Wight added. Its members also participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run which also supports the Olympics. Wight said he and fellow officers are honored to take part in events that touch the lives of so many people.

“I definitely feel that collectively we make a difference,” he said.

Along with Wight, APG police offi-

cers who participated in the Plunge include Laura Budd (photographer), Paul Chin, T.J. Patton II, Kurt Riley, Cal Rolfes, Eric Semke, Lee Travers and Scott Walters.

Wight extended his appreciation to all participants.

“It was truly humbling to see so many people come together and raise over \$2 million in support of the Special Olympics of Maryland,” he said.

Sign up now for summer camp wait list

Continued from Page 1

Summer camp is open to eligible children of active duty service members, DOD civilians and contractors. Slots will be available for children in kindergarten through 8th grade. The full-day program will run from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, June 17 to Aug. 16. Parents may select all nine weeks, or only the weeks that fit their schedules, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Tuition includes breakfast, lunch and snacks, and is based on total family income. Families should submit a copy of their Leave and Earning Statement with their application packet.

Parents will be notified in early March if their child has been placed in the program, and can conduct official registration March 18-20 at APG North (Aberdeen) and March 21-22 at APG South (Edgewood).

Call 410-278-7479/7571 for more information.



Photo by Renee Main

To prepare for a field trip, Samantha and Kayleigh Devorak add lettuce taken from the APG South (Edgewood)youth center garden to sandwiches during last year’s summer camp program. Children who attend summer camp participate in educational activities and go on weekly field trips.

Hero Dog

Continued from Page 1

here” kind of way.

“She settles me down,” Keck said.

He said the greatest advantage is that Libby can bring him things he needs like his wheelchair, which she pulls by a rope. And she almost eliminates the need for him to bend over and pick things up, which can cause dizziness.

“She can open and close things but the most relevant part for me is reaching for things down low or on the floor, and even going up stairs,” he said.

Keck expressed his thanks to EEO supervisors who have supported his special needs requirements.

“I especially want to thank the ATEC commander, chief of staff, EEO supervisors and entire ATEC family for helping me by ensuring I have every accommodation needed to be successful in my job,” he said.

Myria Figueroa is the Child, Youth & School Services Outreach Services director. Outreach Services, which includes Parent Central, is a one-stop registration office for all APG CYSS programs, like sports and before and after-school care.

Figueroa, along with two administration assistants, is available to answer questions and provide information about any CYSS programs and can give assistance with registration forms.

“We work with parents to meet their child care needs for their family,” Figueroa said. “What I enjoy most about my job is working with the community, trying to provide educational and recreational programs and activities for our



Myria Figueroa CYSS Outreach Services Director

children and youth.”

Figueroa, who has a bachelor’s degree in special education, has worked with CYSS for over nine years. Before start-



ing this position in January, she was the APG South (Edgewood) Child Development Center director.

Figueroa is also responsible for conduct-

ing reference checks and sending out background checks on all CYSS volunteers.

“We are always looking for volunteers for our sports and recreational programs,” she said, urging community members to take advantage of volunteer opportunities in any available CYSS programs.

The CYSS Outreach Services, Parent Central office is located on the second floor of Bldg. 2503 on Highpoint Road. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Parents who wish to register for all CYSS programs can call 410-278-7571/7479 to make an appointment. Walk-in hours are 7:30 to 10:30 am. For more information, visit www.apgmwr.com.

APG Snapshot

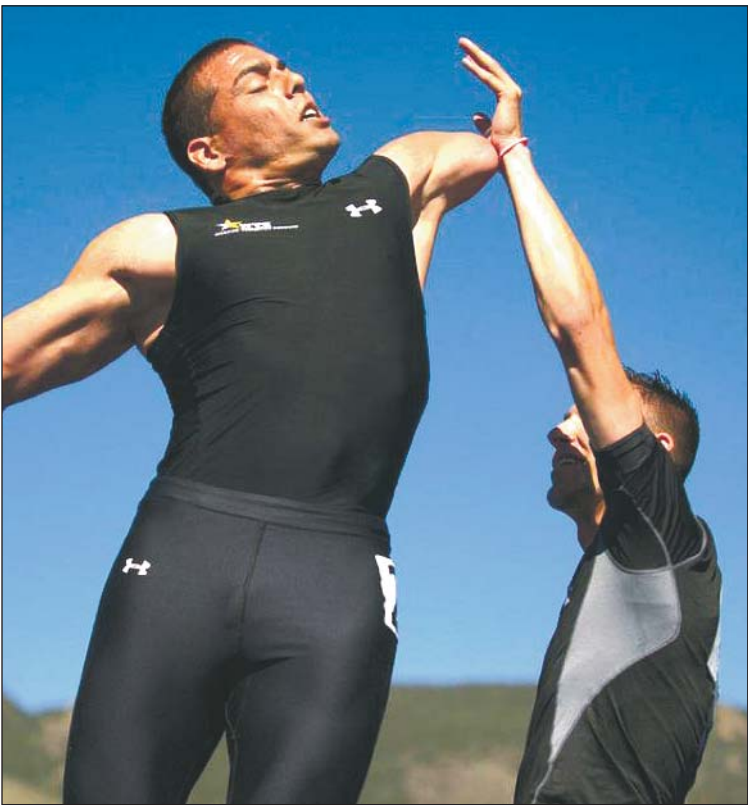
A peek at the events making news in and around U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground. For complete photo coverage, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/>.



Photo by Allison Barrow

SENATE STAFFER VISITS RDECOM LABS

(At right) Kate Kaufer, professional staffer from the Senate Appropriations Committee – Defense, toured the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command at APG to see its latest technologies Feb. 4. Kaufer visited labs at RDECOM's Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center and Army Research Laboratory. During the visit, she received an overview of CERDEC's core technical capabilities focusing on power, communications and intelligence. She visited CERDEC's Command, Power and Integration Directorate for a glimpse at ongoing operational energy efforts and the center's C4ISR Systems Integration Laboratory. Kaufer ended her tour of the center with a live demonstration of work being done by CERDEC's Intelligence and Information Warfare Directorate, PM DCGS-A and Palantir.



Courtesy photo

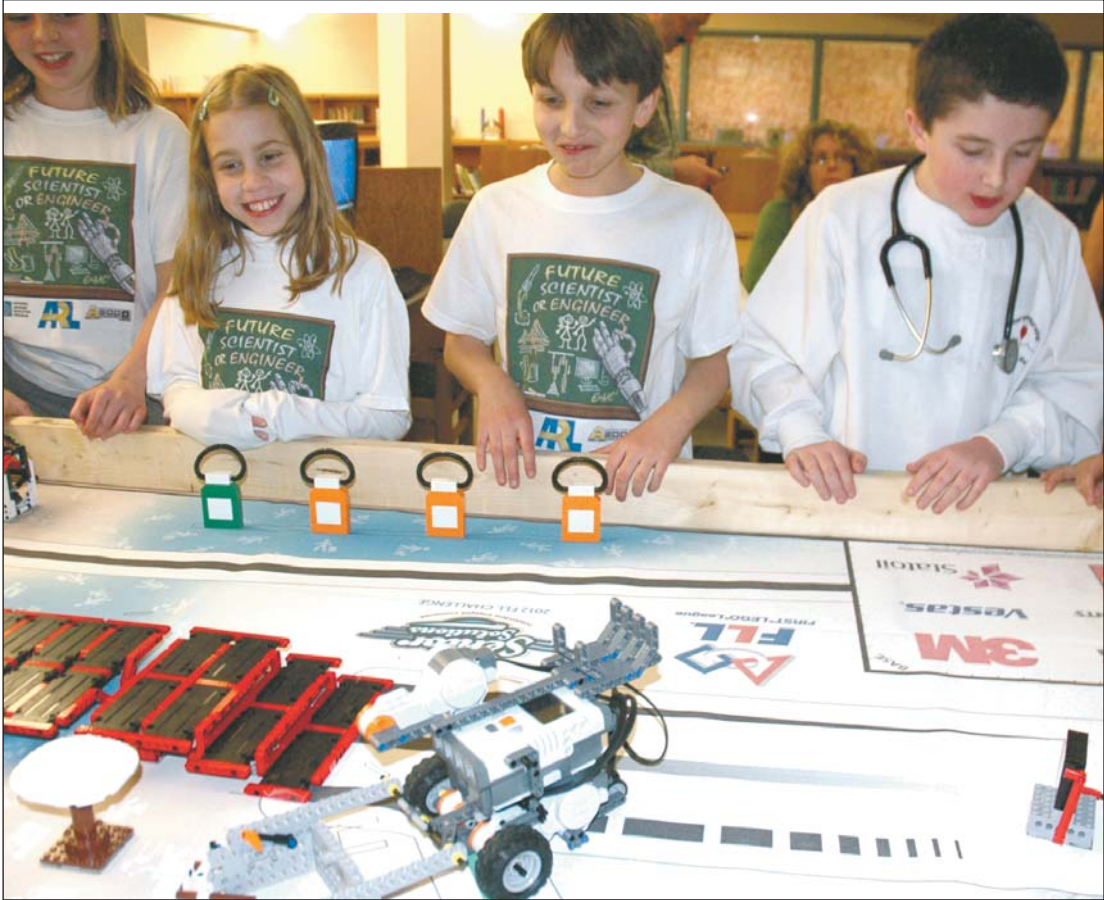


Photo by Rachel Ponder

NO DISABILITY

U.S. Army veteran and Wounded Warrior Staff Sgt. Michael Kacer will visit the APG South (Edgewood) youth center Friday, Feb. 15, from 1:15–3 p.m. to deliver a message of encouragement. Kacer, who was severely wounded while deployed to Afghanistan, will speak to the children about how he has risen above his “disabilities” to make them abilities. Feb. 15 is an early dismissal day for school age children. To participate, contact Renee Main at 410 436-2862 or renee.s.main.naf@mail.mil.

MENTORING OUR YOUTH

(From left) Engineering Eaglebots Alida Coggins, Laura Velez, Shane Sanchez and Will Preston demonstrate their robot's capabilities during Roye Williams Elementary School's first STEM Night Feb. 7. The Engineering Eaglebots, a First LEGO League team, built an autonomous robot with the help of U.S. Army Research Laboratory's scientists and engineers. APG Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton and Garrison HHC Soldiers also attended the event. Garrison HHC serves as the school's sponsors, providing mentorship and assistance at events throughout the year. For more information about school sponsorship, call School Liaison Officer Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-2857.



Photo by Sean Kief

HOW WE HAVE TRANSFORMED

APG Garrison Commander Col. Gregory McClinton explains APG's transformation since the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure to members of a Congressional staff delegation during the team's Jan. 31 tour of the installation.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

A LIFE-SAVER

(From left) Ryan Lee of CERDEC gets his blood drawn by phlebotomy technician Yolanda Velazquez during a Team APG blood drive at the APG North recreation center Feb. 11. Seventy-two useable units were collected and will go toward saving lives and supporting troops during war and peace time. The next blood drive will be held April 29. Visit <http://militaryblood.dod.mil/> for more information.